



A Message From The Commander

Post Commander, Dennis Owens

I cannot tell you how proud I am to be your Commander at this time. NL01 is the most active and the fastest growing American Legion Post in all of the Department of France. We are making History! Last month, our post membership sailed past our 100th member in just the 2.5 years of our young post. Every month we are doing something as a post for our community. Our fund raising activities are fun and quite profitable. Here, I would like to share my vision of where I see our post going under as your post Commander.

My first priority is to have a physical home of brick and mortar, a place where we can meet and grow together. A place where we can go to receive counseling on our individual VA Disability Benefits in private from our Post Service Officer Ron Macauley and our accredited Assistant Department Service Officer, Harvey Briggs III. A place where you can wind down with other legionnaires over a cup of coffee or a beer. A place where our Post Colors, POW/MIA Table and our Awards are permanently on display. A place where we can gather for a large family BBQ and socialize. At this moment, our post is in the process of finalizing our arrangements with the Dutch GOC Veterans Home in Kerkrade, the Netherlands. I hope to provide some positive news on this issue very soon.

My second priority is to complete our Legion Family. A full American Legion Family consists of Legionnaires, a Riders Chapter, The Ladies Auxiliary and The Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L). We just stood up our Legion Riders Chapter mostly due to the hard work and commitment from Jim Brotherton, our first Chapter Director. I am a charter member of our chapter and I am looking forward to going out on rides on two wheels with our brothers and sisters showing our commitment to helping veterans and their families. I would like to see the Ladies Auxiliary start and allow it to become a vital part of our post. We have so many spouses that are so active and is an untapped source for good in our community. Further, I would like to see a Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) squadron started in our post.

My third priority is to get the word out about what we as a post are doing. We are looking at starting a website for this reason. Legionnaire Amanda Souren is the author of our Post Newsletter. We plan to publish on the first of each month, looking back on what we just accomplished and what we are looking forward to do that month. I do not wish our information to stop there, I would like to spread our information in local and Base newspapers. Our Tri-Border community is target rich for membership in the American Legion. I would encourage all of you to look around and see others in your work force that you think might want to become a member. Let's build up our post membership into a large post!

My last priority is to have fun! It is fun helping Veterans; and it is fun raising funds to do such. It is fun to hang around like-minded people who have had experiences like you've had. You'll find that I am a very transparent Commander who does not do everything himself, I do delegate. Sharing the workload is rewarding to our post. I would like to take a moment to thank all of our Post Officers, you have all stepped up to your jobs and tasks with such enthusiasm and you do so much for this post. You make being a Commander almost effortless and most definitely fun!

Post Commander

Dennis Owens

1st Vice Commander

Jim Brotherton

2nd Vice Commander

Joshua Steinlicht

Finance Officer

John Chandler

Adjutant

Rick Ojeda

Sergeant-At-Arms

Mark Chernek

Service Officer

Ron Macauley

Historian

William Tam

Judge Advocate

Jeff Danico

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A New Home For the Post

As you may be aware, our Post has been searching for a permanent home we can call our own for the last two years. The Post Executive Committee is excited to share that one has been found!

The city of Kerkrade owns the GOC Parkstad, a meeting place for military veterans, wounded warriors, and emergency response personnel. We have been graciously invited to use their space as our home.

The facility has a space for general membership meetings, a small conference room for one-on-one appointments, and a small kitchen and bar. Other rooms in the facility will become open as a few private leases expire, leaving us plenty of room for growth and a future possibility to generate revenue for the Post by leasing our spaces for private parties.

There is also a large playground with a snackbar next to the building for the children of our post members to play

on (the normal admission fee for the playground is waived for children of GOC users during opening hours). Use of the facility is free to our Post, we only have to contribute to utilities and participate in upkeep of the building.

Our first general membership meeting at the new location will be on 13 September, but if you would like to check out the space before hand, the Veterans Social Café will be open on Fridays from 1200-1700.

Address

GOC Parkstad
Berenbosweg 1, 6464XZ Kerkrade

GOC Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/veteranencafe/>

Website

<http://goc-parkstad.nl/>



Legion Riders Officers

Director

Jim Brotherton

Assistant Director

Joshua Steinlicht

Sergeant-At-Arms

Ken Determan

Chaplain

Kiara Valencia

Treasurer

John Chandler

Road Captain & Safety

Officer

Mike Snider



Post NL01 Expands with an American Legion Riders Chapter

1st Vice Commander, Jim Brotherton

The Legion Riders are a nationally recognized sub-group of the American Legion with over 110,000 Legion Riders meet in over 2,000 Chapters in every domestic Department and at least 3 foreign countries. Members in Iowa have gone on to form an Honor Guard called the Five Star Freedom riders and Riders in Mulvane Kansas founded the Patriot Guard, a widely know group to protect the sanctity of military funerals. In June of this year, a chapter was chartered for Post NL01.

History of Legion Riders

The idea of Legion Rider Chapter originated in 1993 with the Garden City, Michigan American Legion Post 396. Two individuals established the first Legion Rider Chapter with 19 founding members with the goal of establishing a way for Legion Family members to come together to share their love of motorcycles.

Our Chapter

Our Post has the honor of joining the men and women of this Nationally recognized program. Our recently elected and appointed officers goal is to encourage camaraderie within the Post, recognize, support and honor our veterans, fallen warriors and the men and women serving today in our armed forces. Charter members of our Chapter include: Jim Brotherton, John Chandler, Ken Determan, Richard Mauer, Dennis Owens, Michael Snider, Joshua Steinlicht, William Tam, Kiara Valencia, and Michael Waites.

We hope soon to establish a support organization within the Chapter for Post members to actively participate in Rider events. It is our goal to become the calling card of Post NL01. Our first planned ride is scheduled for 1 September 2019. If you have any questions or want more information about joining the Legion Riders and our upcoming events, please contact Jim Brotherton or Joshua Steinlicht, we will be more than happy to help!

4th of July Celebration at USAG Schinnen



The 2019 4th of July Festivities at USAG Schinnen were a blast! An awareness table manned by Jim Brotherton pulled in a few new members. Post members sold a whopping 14 kilos of pulled chicken sandwiches, 12 kilos of potato salad and Frito Chili pies. The food proved so delicious that we were completely sold out by 1830 and were able to enjoy the awesome music performed by Mark Chernek and Music4Vets! Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a great success!



Department Convention

The Department Convention was held 24-26 June, hosted by post GR14 in Eitorf, Germany. Our Post maintained three Department Officer Positions! Congratulations to Department Vice Commander Dennis Owens, Sergeant-At-Arms Andy Clevenger, and Chaplain Harvey Briggs III!



National Commander Visit

National Commander Brett Reistad and the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary Kathy Dungan visited the region on 1 June. Post NL01 Members Jim Brotherton, Joshua Steinlicht, Michael Sneider, and Dennis Owens traveled to Luxembourg to join Commander Reistad and President Dungan on a tour of the ABMC War Cemetery (provided by Superintendent Jennifer Roman) and a visit to Bastogne.



Coast Guard Tall Ship USCGC EAGLE

On 20 June the USCGC Eagle participated in the Scheveningen Tall Ships Regatta in The Hague. Post NL01 members were invited to join the ship as she sailed in the Regatta.

The USCGC Eagle is a training vessel for cadets and officer candidates at the USCG Academy. Every summer the ship deploys with cadets as part of their Academy curriculum for two weeks to two months at a time. This was the first time in over 20 years that the USCGC Eagle visited The Netherlands.

10 Legion members received VIP tours and had the opportunity to meet the United States Ambassador to the Netherlands, the Honorable Pete Hoekstra.



National American Legion Headlines

The Senate has passed a unanimous resolution calling for August 23-29 to be designated “American Legion Week” in honor of the Legion’s 100th Anniversary.

President Trump signed the LEGION Act into law on 30 July. This legislation declares that the United States has been in a state of war since 7 December, 1941. The American Legion was an advocate for this legislation to honor and recognize service members who were injured or killed in undeclared periods of war. It also opens the door for American Legion programs and benefits to over 6 veterans.

In honor of the Legion’s 100th anniversary, the Departments of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota organized a Centennial Ride. Two caravans of riders, each carrying half of a centennial banner, left from Texas and North Dakota on 31 July and 1 August heading towards a rendezvous point in Great Bend, Kansas on 4 August. Posts along the route signed the banner, which will be presented at the 101st National Convention on 27 August. You can check out the ride at <https://www.legion.org/centennial-ride>

For the full stories and many more, Visit <https://www.legion.org/headlines>

Highlighted Events

Wereth 11 Ceremony

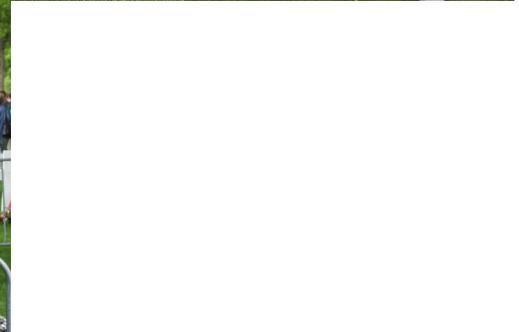
The Wereth 11 Ceremony honors 11 African-American soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion that were brutally executed by the SS after surrendering during the Battle of the Bulge. The annual memorial ceremony draws over 400 people to pay their respect.

Memorial Day at Henri-Chapelle and Margraten American Cemeteries

The Memorial Day Weekend was busy for the Post. On Saturday, 25 May, the post participated in the Memorial Ceremony at Henri-Chapelle in Belgium. At the same time, Post members helped the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts prepare Margraten for the Memorial Day Ceremony by cleaning headstones and planting over 8,000 American flags.

Commander Owens laid a massive wreath at our namesake as part of the official Memorial Day Ceremony. Several Post members were in attendance for the ceremony, which included speeches by government officials, a combined Dutch-American military formation of F16s.

Post NL01 Participates in Memorial Ceremonies



Upcoming Events

16 August, 1700

General Membership Meeting

USAG Schinnen Classroom

This is our final meeting at USAG Schinnen

17 August

USAG Schinnen Community Expo

Community Center

Volunteers are needed to help serve food during this event. Contact Josh Steinlich to sign up!

September, All Month Long

Disaster Preparedness Month

7 September, 1000-2000

Tri-Border NerdCon

JFC Brunssum International Conference Center

Volunteers are needed to help the Post run concessions for the event. Contact Josh Steinlich to sign up!

8 September

Post Executive Committee Meeting,
GOC, Kerkrade

11 September, Time TBD

Tri-Border 9/11 Memorial Stair Run
Snowworld, Landgraaf

13 September, 1700-2000

General Membership Meeting
GOC, Kerkrade

14 September, 1100

1st Annual Post NLO1 Family BBQ
GOC, Kerkrade

5 October, TBD

Joker Memorial Ceremony
Belguim

2020 Membership Year

1st Vice Commander, Jim Brotherton

Fellow Legionnaires,

We have entered the 2020 renewal season. You may have already received notices in the mail concerning your membership. I'd like to take this opportunity to explain the several options you have to renew.

- 1) Renew in person with a Post Officer. This may be done at a general meeting, awareness event, or stopping by the work center of any Post Officer.
- 2) Renew online at <https://www.legion.org/renew>. Simply follow the directions.
- 3) Renew via mail. You can send a check directly to:
Jim Brotherton, CMR 461 Box 3110, APO AE 09703

Renewal fee is \$35.00 and depending on renewal method can be paid in cash or with check or credit card. 2020 membership cards are on hand and you will receive your card immediately. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at +31-6-29553832.

Meeting Recaps

May

A general membership meeting convened on 17 May. While we had no new members present, Amanda Zenner, Mike Snider, and Jennifer Formell were officially inducted into the American Legion. May was an extremely busy month for the Post with multiple memorial ceremonies, including Opijnen, Oud Beijerland, Wereth 11, Margraten, and Henri Chapelle. Commander Owens would like as many people as possible have the opportunity to lay a wreath at these events, and highlighted members Jennifer Formell, James Scott, Jeff Danico, and Mike Snider for their participation. Jennifer also received a special Team 100 pin for her recruitment efforts for the Post.

Service Officer Ron Macauley announced that there is a possible lawsuit regarding faulty earplugs that members could join to receive reparation for hearing loss. The 3M earplugs were used by military members from 2003-2015. Google "3M Earplugs" for more information about the defective items to see if you may have been impacted by their use.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was Mr. Co de Swart. Mr. de Swart witnessed a B-17 crash as a child in his village near Utrecht. As an adult, he researched the crash and was able to find and meet surviving members, as well as the families of those that did not survive the crash. Mr. de Swart also researched the German pilot that shot down the aircraft and met his family as well.

June

Our June meeting was held on 14 June. New members Scott Eidson, Michael Odom, and Adam Rudolph, Dan Perez, and Roy Smith were introduced. With the addition of these new members, our Post membership hit 100 members! These members, along with John Pope and Larry Studer, were officially inducted into the American Legion. Members who were inducted at the previous meeting received their Certificate of Induction and Official Lapel Pin.

Service Officer Ron Macauley announce openings for upcoming VA Representative appointments and it was announced that Harvey Briggs is now a certified Assistant Department Veterans Service Officer. Members were reminded that they have nothing to lose when making a claim, no matter how long they have been separated from active service. Medical records from foreign doctors they have been treated by can be used as supporting evidence to file a VA Claim, and the VA will provide translation service for those medical records for free.

After a short break for dinner (provided by John Chandler, Angelika Owens, and Jeff Danico), the Post welcomed Larry Studer as our guest speaker for the meeting. Larry gave a presentation on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that was well received and answered many questions. Larry received a Commander's Coin from Commander Dennis as a thank you.

Harvey Briggs III also received a Commander's Coin and Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his two years of service as 2nd Vice Commander for the Post. Several upcoming events were discussed (please see the upcoming events list on page 7).

July

The meeting on July 19th kicked off with Commander Owens sharing information about how much the Post has grown over the last two years. We are the fastest growing Post in the Department of France (out of 33 other Posts). Post NL01 was the runner-up for Post Over the Top Award and All Time High Membership recognition at the Department Convention. He shared his long-term vision and goals for the Post: finding a physical home for the post, expanding the Legion Family with a Legion Riders Chapter, an American Legion Auxiliary Chapter, and a Sons of the American Legion Chapter, getting the word out about what the Post is doing, and having fun.

There was also an announcement that our Post has found a new home (please see page 2 for more information). Our first general membership meeting will be there on 13 September, and a family BBQ will be on 14 September. Members are highly encouraged to bring their family (including children) out to the Post Family BBQ!

Our Guest Speaker at the next meeting will be our own Harvey Briggs III, giving a short presentation and question and answer session on VA claims and benefits.

